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Student Activities

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Wright State University Student Body

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PHOTO/SCOTT KOSSEL

The Daily Guardian

Wednesday, February 29, 1984

Number 76, Volume XX

Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Blizzard forces university to close

By staff and wire services

If you're reading this paper, you already know Wright State closed early Monday and Tuesday, due to adverse weather conditions.

Monday's announcement of the university's closing was made at approximately 1:30 p.m. over the university's public address system by WSU security.

David Atwater, assistant vice-president

for Facilities and General Services, requested the announcement.

Concerning Monday's closing, Atwater said he reviewed the weather and traffic reports and relayed them to the Provost.

Atwater said it was necessary to watch the temperature carefully because it was predicted it would rise to 38 degrees.

When the temperature, in fact, went down; the decision was made to close the university, he said.

"When weather deteriorates to a certain point, we close down," Atwater said.

After Monday's announcement, traffic leaving the university was heavy. At the intersection of Center Road and Service Road, near the ambulatory care center, traffic was almost at a standstill.

At 2:25 p.m., a WSU police officer

arrived to direct traffic at the intersection.

Traffic along Main Road moved at a slow pace, and was almost stopped near Kauffman and lower campus lot.

By 3 p.m., the lines of cars were gone. There was no traffic on Main Road, and only an occasional car using Service Road.

WSU Security reported no weather-related problems for the remainder of Monday.

Between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tuesday, Security received 387 calls asking if the university was open.

During the past two days, university maintenance crews have been working to keep the university roads and sidewalks clear.

The university's Physical Plant could not

be reached for comment concerning any problems.

Monday and Tuesday, the Rathskeller, Bicycle Shop, and Allyn hall lounge closed early.

The Daily Guardian did not publish a Tuesday paper because of the weather.

Bill Shepard, Hamilton Hall Board president, said "Food Service has been doing a good job keeping the cafeteria open."

Shepard also noted there were no power outages or other major problems in Hamilton hall due to the storm.

When the announcement came Monday to close the university, the University Communications office found it could not use the office phones to reach the local radio

(see BLIZZARD page 2)



PHOTO/SCOTT KOSSEL

Open Forum

Weather permitting, Student Government will hold an Open Forum today at noon in Allyn hall lounge.

Chief topics for discussion are the drop policy proposals and parking.

"If students snooze, they're gonna lose, and that's that," said Mike Greenfield, student government chair.



Blizzard

(continued from page 1)

and television stations.

Larry Kinneer, director of University Communications, said some of his staff had to use pay phones to notify the stations.

According to a spokesperson from the Telephone Center, at times such as a school closing, telephone demands increase greatly, causing the kinds of problems described above.

Tuesday, about 11:10 a.m., it was announced the university would close at 12:10 p.m., due to poor weather.

The university was not closed sooner because of conflicting reports from several weather stations, said Provost Michael Ferrari.

Ferrari indicated the weather stations had been providing the university with

varied readings. The weather forecast predicted one to three inches of snow. Other reports indicated only one additional inch.

Commenting on phone calls from students complaining about driving to campus under such adverse conditions, Ferrari said students should use good judgement and common sense in deciding whether to drive.

If a student decides not to risk it, "The faculty should be understanding," Ferrari said.

"If a student did decide to not make the trip to school and the professor is not understanding, I'd like to know that," he said.

Senior music major Kathryn Obie was not too happy about coming to school Tuesday.

Obie called the music department around

11:00, and was told the school was open.

"So I struggled to get to school," she said, "and now I have to struggle to get back home."

"Where did spring go?" commented another student.

One small group of students with nothing better to do built a "pregnant female snow person" Tuesday in the middle of the quad.

During both Monday and Tuesday, scenes around the university were the same.

After the university's closing, Allyn Hall lounge was almost deserted. A few diehard soap opera fans, ignoring the snow storm outside, watched *General Hospital*.

At the time of this report, Governor Richard Celeste had declared a statewide weather emergency.

Celeste, attending a national governor's conference, said Tuesday he planned to



PHOTO/BRETT CORNARO

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed



return to Ohio by private plane.

The National Weather Service predicted near blizzard conditions across many areas of the state Tuesday. Up to 12 inches of snow fell Monday night in an area 70 to 100 miles wide.

Emergency shelters were opened in parts of northwest Ohio, with travel reported as "impossible" in Erie, Huron, Sandusky, and Ottawa counties.

The weather forced the closing of Interstate 75, north of Findlay.

Ferrari said the wind would determine whether the university was open Wednesday.

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